

The Pulse of Countryside

At Countryside Covenant Church, we are a Community growing in the Grace and the Truth of Jesus Christ as we ...

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 11

November 2026

csidecov.com

- Worship
- Disciple
- Serve
- Multiply

Our Primary Purpose

- Pastor Jon Black

As believers in Christ and members of the Body of Christ, His Church, would you say you are living into the following statement...

"We exist to make and deepen disciples who make Jesus their top priority, obey His commands and invest in others to do the same."

The moment we invited Jesus to be our Savior, everything changed. We became eternal children of God, and were appointed by God Himself to live out this purpose on earth in obedience to His Great Commission:

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matt 28:18-20

If we are saved, we have a wonderful hope that after we finish our lives on this earth, we will enjoy eternity with Christ in His kingdom. We have been gloriously saved from sin and eternal death.

However, if you are reading this right now, your assignment on earth is not yet complete. You are still on active-duty serving your Lord and Master. He still has important work to do that will literally impact eternity.

If I were to boil down the Great Commission for each of us, I would ask us two questions to consider:



First... Are you making Jesus your top priority?

And second...Who are you investing in to make Jesus their top priority?

It may be true that we are all growing in discipleship with the Lord (and I believe so many are indeed growing in our church)... but are we making disciples of others?

Making disciples is a matter of intentionality. When someone tells us: "We'll have to catch up sometime soon...", I know that the meeting will probably never happen.

Jesus' Great Commission is not a great suggestion. If it were, you wouldn't be reading this in our church newsletter, because his disciples would not have been faithful to carry on Christ's ministry to others... including us. Instead, it is a command. It is the purpose for which we are alive right now as followers of Christ.





I have developed a perspective on life that I hadn't even considered 10 years ago. A Bible study on the life of Solomon brought me to a place where I

had to ask myself: "Am I on a trajectory to ending well?" In the words of a surprising contemporary, "Aging is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been" (David Bowie).

We are a vibrant, healthy church with large youth and children's programs; yet at the same time we're also seeing an influx of Boomers and empty nesters coming into our fellowship, truly looking for meaningful life engagement. We are discerning the need for different tools in our ministry toolbox to be effective in ministry, including discipleship to all ages.

The Evangelical Covenant Church sponsors a discipleship initiative entitled Crescendo. Its mission is to intentionally encourage, develop, and augment spiritual vitality and missional discipleship in our older generations. Clearly, statistics tell us that the church is aging along with the general population, and we need to have a strategy in place to equip the Greatest, Boomer, and Gen X generations for purposeful living that goes beyond the traditional ideas of retirement. [Crescendo - The Evangelical Covenant Church](#)

The goal of Crescendo Ministry at Countryside has been to help raise awareness of the issues surrounding aging, provide a framework for a holistic ministry, to help the church unleash its potential, and to envision what it means to live with purpose, vitality, and mission in the latter stages of life. In the past, this has included many facets of learning, connecting, and serving.

The importance of a Crescendo ministry in our church cannot be underestimated. Boomers and Beyond are of the ever-creative "Sunday School, Youth Group, and Contemporary

Worship" generations, and their desire to be engaged in meaningful life experiences cannot be ignored. The creativity and independent nature of Gen Xer's creates its own unique ministry flair. Crescendo is designed to help our members approaching retirement to tap into that creativity on every level, and to encourage inter-generational ministry opportunities that will help the kingdom flourish.

As pastor for adult ministry, it's imperative to see all adult generations extend themselves onto the front lines of discipleship in our church. It's my privilege to cast the vision that our highest calling is to pour all of our resources into every generation. Evangelism is not to be limited to the youth, but rather to the faithful, available, and teachable, no matter what their stage in life! As a result of participating in the Crescendo Initiative, our vision at Countryside is to see everyone at our church who is 55 plus engaged in a faith-growing, Bible-centered ministry either in our church or in our community, as an expression of their faith in Christ.

Given that 11,000 people a day turn 65, and that this generation is not yet ready to slow down, this gives the church a tremendous kingdom resource when it comes to time, talent, and treasure. The issue is how to engage them, cast vision, and hone their gifts to end life well, on a Crescendo note! Be watching for more to come. Are you on a trajectory to end life well?

-Pastor Lynn Black

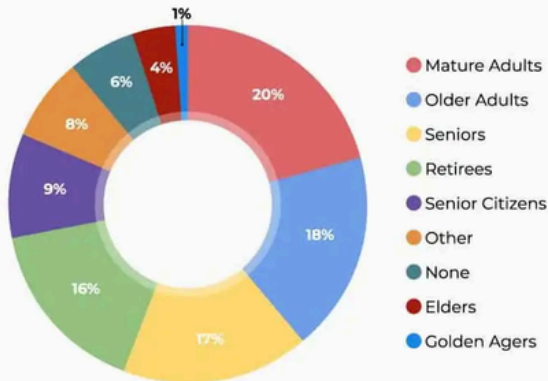




What's in a Name?

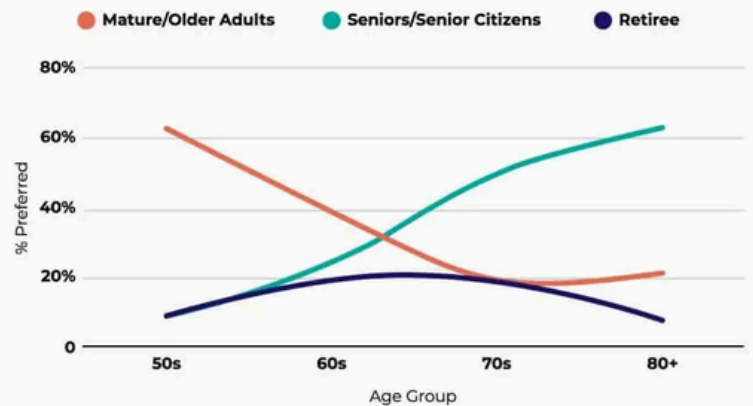
In an article updated in April 2024, The Senior List Research Team reported how adults over 55 preferred to be referred to. The top three choices reflect the opinions of those who were younger overall in the study. The poll provided no clear-cut choice for a favorite title but clearly showed how seniors wish to be perceived: as people who happened to have lived a long time, not as a separate segment of society.

Most Preferred Term



*Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding

Preferred Term by Age



If you've enjoyed the sermon series on learning about various ways people connect with God in worship and are curious to discern what your personal preferences might be. There is a short online assessment that you can take

to steer you in the right direction. Once on the site, take the test for individuals. It will score it for you. Future sermons will cover the rest of the pathways.

<https://groupleaders.org/curriculum-feed/spiritual-pathways-activity>

Church Life Update

Death in the Church Family:

Jim Becker, October 7
Donna Britting, October 2
Betty Schmidt, October 4
Duane Becker, October 17
Nick Schafer, October 17

Dedication:

Adalynn Anne, daughter of Caleb & Maggie Shaw

Wedding:

Katie Wurm & Levi Marcotte, October 15



Life Student Ministries 2026

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

Fields of Faith at MHS on Oct 14th



Our Middle School Youth Group has grown to over 50 kids weekly, so lots of healthy competition and group games happening!



Last month we started a new teaching series within both the middle school and high school youth groups!

For the month of October, we dove into the Book of James! We covered BIG IDEAS like:

Meeting God in our Trials
Faith Without Works Is Dead
Taming the Tongue

Our next series is titled *Grace and Gratitude*, as we explore an attitude of gratitude, being grateful for the good, and being grateful amidst the bad.



TAWG time @ Starbucks Tuesday mornings at 6am!

WHAT'S COMING?

Middle School Fall Retreat: Nov 6-8

High School Fall Retreat: Nov 20-23

Wednesday, Nov 25: NO Youth Group

Sunday, Nov 29: Youth Sunday at Both Services

NOVEMBER COUNTRYSIDE KIDS CALENDAR

1	Sunday	Kingdom Families 9:45 a.m. *Reminder that when we have Kingdom Families children ages 5 - 5 th grade will attend with their parent. Ages 4 and under are welcome to join the nursery if their parent is in an adult class! Kids Praise 11:00 a.m. Service
4	Wednesday	Toddler Time 9:30 a.m. Kids Choir 6:00 p.m. Kids Life 6:30 p.m.
8	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45 a.m. Kids Praise 11:00 a.m. Service
11	Wednesday	Toddler Time 9:30 a.m. Kids Choir 6:00 p.m. Kids Life 6:30 p.m.
15	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45 a.m. Kids Praise 11:00 a.m. Service
18	Wednesday	Toddler Time 9:30 a.m. Kids Choir 6:00 p.m. Kids Life 6:30 p.m.
22	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45 a.m. Kids Praise 11:00 a.m. Service
25	Wednesday	Toddler Time 9:30 a.m. No Kids Choir or Kids Life (Thanksgiving Break)
29	Sunday	Kids Town 9:45 a.m. Kids Praise 11:00 a.m. Service
30	Monday	5th Graders to Kansas Food Bank

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES!

Add these dates to your calendar if you are looking for ways to serve as a family! Also, we have a few dates scheduled for our 5th graders to serve at the Kansas Food Bank in Wichita!

FOOD BANK

5TH GRADERS

NOVEMBER 30TH | 1:30-3:30
FEBRUARY 15TH | 1:30-3:30



5th Grade Service Opportunity
We will be making a trip to the Kansas Food Bank to help sort and pack food boxes. We will leave at 12:15 and return to the church around 5:00 p.m. Kids must sign up in advance to attend! Let Amy know if your 5th grader is interested! Parents are welcome too!

Please contact Amy if your 5th grader would like to join us on November 30th! We will leave the church at 12:15 p.m. and return around 5:00!



Countryside Kids Service Opportunity

STEPMC MEAL



USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP TO SERVE OR BRING FOOD!



KINGDOM FAMILIES | NOVEMBER 1ST

This month in Kingdom Families we will gather with a focus on praising God. Pies & Praise is a family event designed to help kids and families discover the joy of praising and thanking God together. Through fun, pie-themed stations, families will engage in Scripture, prayer, worship, and activities that remind them of God's goodness. Each activity points kids and families toward a heart of gratitude and praise. Families will leave with a sweet reminder that God is good, God is faithful, and God is always worthy of our praise!

TODDLER TIME | WEDNESDAYS | 9:30 A.M.

We are having fun at Toddler Time and hope you can join us! This is for toddlers (18 months - 3 years) and their care-givers. You can drop in any Wednesday and do not need to pre-register to come!



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVENT!

Carol Night

Sunday, December 13th
5:30 - 8:30 PM

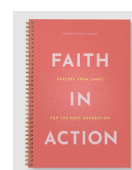
Caroling
Trolley Rides
Soup Supper
Worship Night



We are changing up our Annual Christmas Caroling this year! We'll start the evening by caroling to shut-ins, then return to the church for soup. We will have the McPherson Trolley again this year; it will take people to carol and provide trolley rides during the soup supper. After soup, we will gather for a Worship Night led by our Youth Group! Watch for sign-ups to serve at this event!

5:30 - 6:30 Caroling
6:30 - 7:30 Soup Supper in Student Center
7:30 - 8:30 Worship Night led by HS Youth

Children's Choir: The children's choir is preparing to join the adult choir on Sunday, December 20th for Christmas Worship. If you want your child to participate on that Sunday, they will need to attend practices on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.



We hope you are enjoying your prayer journey through the prayer journal you received at Kingdom Families in September! Just a reminder that you can access the weekly podcasts that pair with this journal for additional insight and encouragement!



We hope that you are receiving our weekly emails but if you are not please contact Amy to be added to the list! amy@csidecov.org



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK NOVEMBER 16-23

MCPHERSON DROP-OFF LOCATION SCHEDULE
COUNTRYSIDE COVENANT CHURCH
940 E. NORTHVIEW

MONDAY, NOV. 16	5 PM – 7 PM
TUESDAY, NOV. 17	5 PM – 7 PM
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18	5 PM – 8 PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19	5 PM – 7 PM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20	10 AM – NOON
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21	10 AM – NOON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22	NOON – 3 PM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23	9 AM – 11 AM

Contact person: MARY @ 620-755-4134



Once again, Countryside Covenant Church will provide the cardboard shoe boxes for your use this season. They are now available for pickup at the Operation Christmas Child table in the hallway. We have set a goal of **250 boxes** this year! They will need to be returned any time during Collection Week, which is **November 16-23**.

Scan the QR code for shoebox gift suggestions!



Choir Rehearsals

*One
Small
Child*



**Join us Thursday
evenings at 7:00
for our Christmas Choir
rehearsals.**
**The Choir will present
the musical
"One Small Child"
December 20th
during both Worship
Services**

Alternative Christmas Gift Market

Sponsored by Viega

Give hope this Christmas

Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 am–Noon

McPherson Community Building · 122 E Marlin

Holiday music, Refreshments, Door prizes

Honor your friends and loved ones this holiday with a gift in their name to people desperately in need of Hope!

Scan now for information
about participants, or after
Nov. 7 to give online.



Visit the booths at the market to see how your honorary gifts will help others

CASA
Cedars Residents Assistance Fund
Connected Fair Trade Store
Ethiopia Reads
Haiti Medical Project

Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center
Live Free Ministries/The Omega Project
McPherson Area Habitat for Humanity
McPherson County Food Bank
McPherson Housing Coalition
McPherson Social Outreach League (SOUL)

Mobility Worldwide Kansas/PET
New Community Project
Set Free
STEP MC
United Way of McPherson County



Join other ladies from Countryside for

Gather 'Round

CONNECT | CANDLELIGHT | CREATE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

5:30 - 8:00 PM

STUDENT CENTER

TICKETS: \$5

Gather with other women for a beautiful evening of connection and creativity. Enjoy a candlelight soup dinner and create an Advent wreath to take home.

RSVP by Nov. 8

Scan QR code or stop by the table in the lobby after service.



Sew & Share, Monday, November 16, 9:00 a.m.

We will gather to sew projects and have fellowship together!

We will meet in Room 5. Feel free to come and go as you wish. Contact Shirlee Harper at 620-755-1205 with any questions.



Widows' Connection Upcoming Events:

* *Tuesday, November 2, 9:30 am, monthly meeting @ The Cedars Event Center*

* *Saturday, November 21, 11:30 am, @ Countryside Café.*

Contact Becky Hogue, 918-706-1257, or Diane Portenier, (785) 543-7426, for more information.



Gather Moms at Countryside

Gather Moms is a ministry for moms in all stages of life. Our mission is to

help you connect to other moms who get you, who know your joys and your struggles, and who can offer support and encouragement. All moms are welcome to come to any group, but some of the conversations will be geared towards certain stages of motherhood, so if that's important to you, please be aware of that!

First Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Moms of Younger Children

This month's meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 4.**

Third Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Moms of Preteens/Teens

This month's meeting will be on **Saturday, November 21.**

Fourth Tuesday | 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Moms of Adult Children/Grandchildren

This month's meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 17 (one week earlier because of Thanksgiving).**



**The Annual Budget Meeting
will be held on
Sunday, November 23, 9:45 am,
in the Worship Center.**

**GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES:
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD
IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.**

1 Thessalonians 5:18





What Does Worship Look Like for You?

As we have been hearing about different ways of connecting with God at Countryside, it has made me think about what worship looks like in my own life. We often think of worship as what happens on Sunday morning through singing, prayer, Scripture, and the message. But worship does not have to end when we walk out the church doors.

The different pathways we have been learning about remind us that God created us differently. Some people connect with Him through nature, others through quiet prayer, studying Scripture, tradition, celebration, serving others, or taking action when they see a need. As I thought about my own life, **Caregiver and Activist** immediately made sense to me.

Much of my life is spent helping people experiencing housing instability. Sometimes that means helping someone find a home. Sometimes it means helping an older homeowner remain safely in the home they love. Other times it means sitting across from someone, listening to their story, and reminding them that they matter. I have always thought of this as service, but perhaps it is also one of the ways I worship. Jesus said, *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40, NIV).*

The Activist in me also wants to do something when I see a problem. If our community needs housing, I want to figure out how to build it. If someone is falling through a gap, I want to understand why. But you do not have to serve the way I serve to make a difference.

Think about something as simple, yet important, as having a safe place to call home. One person might volunteer to repair a porch or paint a house.

Another might mow an older neighbor’s yard, donate furniture, provide a meal, help with a utility bill, give someone a ride, or connect a struggling family with a resource. Someone else may simply sit down and listen without judgment. Even planting flowers for someone who can no longer care for their yard can say, **“I see you, and your home matters.”**

Housing instability does not always look like homelessness. It may be an older adult choosing between a home repair and groceries, a family staying with relatives because they cannot find an affordable rental, or a parent who is one unexpected expense away from missing the rent. Sometimes the person struggling may be closer to us than we realize.

Maybe that is where our different ways of connecting with God become especially meaningful. The Caregiver can serve. The Activist can advocate. The Naturalist can care for someone's yard. The Intellectual can help solve a problem. The Contemplative can pray and listen. We do not all have to serve in the same way. We simply need to be willing to use what God has given us.

As we continue learning about these different pathways, perhaps the question is not only, **“Which one am I?”** Maybe we should also ask, **“How can God use me the way He created me to serve someone else?”**

Sometimes worship looks like folded hands and a bowed head.

And sometimes it looks like rolled-up sleeves helping someone find their way home.

Blessings.

Chris Goodson



Leadership Team Update

In 2022, the University of Tennessee stormed their field and tore down their goalposts after the final field goal sailed through. Celebration rained down on Rocky Top in Neyland Stadium after a 15-year losing streak against Alabama had been broken. However, exactly one year later, the Vols would walk away with a loss. In sports, athletes and fans must realize one thing: a win can never be promised.

Sometimes, we, as Christians, are promised things that should not be promised. Some people promise that if we believe in Jesus, we will have a good, healthy, and safe life. Some promise that if we pray hard enough, God will give us everything we pray for. Some promise that if we attend church every week, God will help us get straight A's, starting positions, a state championship, and even good incomes or job promotions. However, all these promises never came from God Himself.

When we read Scripture, we see that every time God promised something, it came to be. He promised to send a Savior, and after hundreds of years passed, Jesus was born. He promised to provide for His people, and God provided in ways His people never imagined. He promised grace, mercy, justice, love, protection, peace, and salvation. When God promised something, then He stuck to it. Why wouldn't He stick to it now?

God doesn't promise a win every day. He doesn't promise a starting position, straight A's, or even a perfect health record. There may be days when it feels like a victory on Rocky Top and other days when it feels like a defeat in Bryant-Denny Stadium; however, we can cling to God's promises.

God promises Himself, His love, His grace, His forgiveness, and your eternal salvation.

He promises the peace that He is in control, the mercy that we are forgiven, and the grace that each day brings new mercies. He promises that when we are weak, He is strong, and when we cry out to Him, He will hear us.

As we read through Scripture, we can search for all that He has promised and look ahead to see Him stick to them.

Questions to consider:

1. Is it dangerous to promise something we can never hold up or stick to?
2. Since God always sticks to His promises, does that make you trust Him more?
3. What are some of God's promises you need to remind yourself of today?

Aaron Glendenning, Leadership Team Chair



October 2026 Attendance (includes online)

	Christian Formation		Worship
October 4	195		564
October 11	176		556
October 18	149		558
October 25	164		544

October 2026 Giving

October 4	\$31,972.64
October 11	\$18,784.01
October 18	\$22,985.18
October 25	\$22,954.90
Total Y-to-D	\$1,108,472.59
Giving vs. Expenses Y-to-D	-\$50,128.22

Your November newsletter is here!



Countryside Covenant Church is a body of believers with a heart for Jesus Christ.

This Month at Countryside

Worship Services at 8:30 & 11:00 am; Christian Formation at 9:45 am
(See calendar for all events)

November Events

1| Kingdom Families
2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30| Women's Exercise Group
3, 21| Widows' Connection
3, 10, 17, 24| Men's Coffee
3, 10, 17, 24| Celebrate Recovery (17-Thanksgiving Dinner)
4, 11, 18, 25| Time of Prayer
4, 11, 18, 25| Toddler Time
4| Gather Moms (toddler-elementary)
6-8| M.S. Fall Retreat
10| Leadership Team Meeting
14| Women's Event
16| Sew & Share
16-23| Operation Christmas Child Week
17| Gather Moms (adult children)
20-22| H.S. Fall Retreat
21| Gather Moms (preteen-teens)
22| Annual Business Meeting (between services)
23| Church Christmas Decorating
26-27| Thanksgiving Holiday/Church Office Closed



Countryside Staff

Jon Black, Senior Pastor

Jeremy Bower, Associate Pastor

Lynn Black, Pastor of Adult Ministries

Amy Brunk, Director of Children's Ministries

Lizy Johnson, Director of Youth & Young Adults

Bobbie Kaufman, Director of Worship Arts

Linda Totman, Church Administrator

Kim Goering, Office Assistant

Tiffani Eilrich, Children's Ministries Assistant

Jase Brandt, Production Director